

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-04 H-01
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
IO-13 /081 W

-----311302Z 055079 /47

R 301520Z MAR 77

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4327

AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USNATO

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0892

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, EAIR, WB, GW, GE, UK, FR, US, UR

SUBJECT: CORRIDOR CLEARANCE FOR GOODYEAR AIRSHIP

REFS: A) BONN 5373, B) USBERLIN 876

1. FOLLOWING RESPONSES TO REFTEL (A) ON NOW-CANCELLED
GOODYEAR AIRSHIP FLIGHT TO BERLIN MAY BE USEFUL IF A
SIMILAR CASE SHOULD ARISE IN THE FUTURE.

2. AIRSHIP WAS TO HAVE FLOWN AT 3,500 FEET ALTITUDE
OR HIGHER; IT IS 170 FEET LONG, 45 FEET WIDE, 54 FEET
HIGH (A BOEING 707 IS SLIGHTLY SHORTER , 152 FEET). THE
AIRSHIP IS CAPABLE OF FLYING AT 40 MILES PER HOUR
(IN STILL AIR) WHICH MEANS THAT IT WOULD BE IN CORRIDOR
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FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS. ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE
VISIBLE TO GDR OBSERVERS ON THE GROUND, IT WOULD HARDLY
BE A LARGE, LOOMING PRESENCE. FROM WHAT WE CAN GATHER,
THE WORD " GOODYEAR" APPEARS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AIRSHIP.

3. ALTHOUGH SENDER FREIES BERLIN (SFB) ORIGINATED THE
REQUEST FOR THE AIRSHIP'S SERVICES, GOODYEAR'S

PUBLIC RELATIONS BUDGET WOULD HAVE PAID THE COST OF THE TRIP TO BERLIN, NOT SFB. GOODYEAR PERFORMS SIMILAR SERVICES THROUGHOUT WESTERN EUROPE. SFB BROADCASTS NORMAL COMMERCIAL WEST GERMAN PROGRAMS TO THE GREATER BERLIN AREA, WHICH INCLUDES EAST BERLIN AND PART OF THE GDR. ITS PROGRAMMING IS NOT SPECIFICALLY AIMED AT THE GDR.

4. SINCE AVIATION IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ALLIES, THE SENAT WAS NOT ASKED TO FORMALLY CLEAR THE AIRSHIP REQUEST. HOWEVER, SENAT ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT WAS ASSISTING GOODYEAR IN MAKING GROUND SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS. WITHOUT QUERYING SFB, WHICH WE ARE RELUCTANT TO DO IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, WE CANNOT SAY WHAT ALTERNATE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR CALIBRATING THE STATIONS ANTENNAS. HOWEVER, BRITISH HERE HAVE ASSURED US THAT THERE ARE "MANY WAYS" OF ACHIEVING THIS. .

5. GOODYEAR PEOPLE ARE NOW AWARE OF WITHDRAWAL OF FLIGHT CLEARANCE WHICH RAISES POSSIBILITY OF PRESS INQUIRIES. WE PLAN TO REFER ALL SUCH INQUIRIES TO CHAIRMAN CIVIL AIR ATTACHE IN BONN (PRESENTLY FRENCH, AS OF APRIL 1, BRITISH).

6. AS THE INTENDED FLIGHT WAS COVERED UNDER APPLICABLE REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES, NO ADDITIONAL PERMISSION BY ALLIED KOMMANDATURA WAS REQUIRED.
GEORGE
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 30-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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Litigation Codes:
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